## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

## RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 17, 2008

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 17, 2008, having a shortened three-month period for reply expiring January 17, 2009, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks. Concurrently filed with this response is a request for a one-month extension of time for responding to the Office Action by February 17, 2009. Further enclosed are certain NCBI protein database entries (7 in total) and copies of the decisions *Ex parte Kubin* (2007) and *Ex parte Heck* (2008). Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.